

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An isolated neuropilin binder (NPB), wherein the NPB is [[an]] a monoclonal antibody, antibody fragment or bioconjugate or antigen binding fragment thereof, that specifically binds to cell surface neuropilin-1 without inhibiting the ~~VEGF/neuropilin-1 interaction~~ binding of VEGF165 to neuropilin-1.

24. (Previously Presented) The NPB of claim 23, comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID No.: 15.

25. (Previously Presented) The NPB of claim 23, comprising a VH domain comprising amino acid residues 1 to 116 of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID No.: 15.

26. (Previously Presented) The NPB of claim 23, comprising a VL domain comprising amino acid residues 134 to 243 of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID No.: 15.

27. (Previously Presented) The NPB of claim 23, comprising a VH domain comprising CDR 1, 2 and 3 regions comprising amino acid residues 16 to 22, 40 to 56, and 89 to 105 respectively of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID No.: 15.

28. (Previously Presented) The NPB of claim 23, comprising a VL domain comprising CDR 1, 2 and 3 regions comprising amino acid residues 157 to 168, 184 to 190, and 222 to 232 respectively of the sequence set forth in SEQ ID No.: 15.

29. (Currently Amended) An isolated NPB, wherein the NPB is [[an]] a monoclonal antibody, antibody fragment or bioconjugate, or antigen binding fragment thereof, that competes for binding to neuropilin-1 with the NPB of claim 24.

30. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the NPB of claim 23, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier

31 (**Withdrawn**) A method of treating or preventing cancer or metastasis in a patient, the method comprising administering to the patient the NBP according to claim 23 or the composition according to claim 30 in an amount effective to inhibit neuropilin-1 mediated invasion and/or adhesion.

REMARKS

Claims 23-31 were pending in the application. Claim 31 is currently withdrawn. Claims 1 and 29 are amended herein. Accordingly, upon entry of the amendments presented herein, claims 23-31 will remain pending in the application.

The foregoing claim amendments should in no way be construed as acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and were made solely to expedite prosecution of the application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims to the canceled subject matter, or any subject matter which they are entitled to claim, in this or a separate application. No new matter has been added.

Rejection of claims 23-30 35 U.S.C. §112 first paragraph (enablement)

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-30 for lack of enablement. Specifically, the Examiner has alleged that the claims encompass isoforms of VEGF that do not bind to neuropilin-1.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite "VEGF165" in place of "VEGF." Accordingly, this rejection should now be moot.

Rejection of claims 23-30 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-30 for allegedly being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to use of the term "VEGF/NP1 interaction."

In response, claim 1 has been amended to recite "binding of VEGF165 to neuropilin-1" in place of "VEGF/NP1 interaction." Accordingly, this rejection should now be moot.

Rejection of claims 23-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 23-30 as being anticipated by Soker *et al.* (hereafter "Soker").